Help to fishermen for mechanized fishing

3144. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to provide help to the poor fishermen of the country, during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have marked any limit along the coastline of the country, debarring mechanized fishing; and

(c) if so, the details in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The steps taken by the Government to provide help to the poor fishermen during the last three years include subsidy for purchase of Out Board Motors and Inboard Motors, reimbursement of Central excise duty on High Speed Diesel (HSD), scheme for Welfare of Fishermen comprising of group accident insurance, saving cum relief and development of model fishermen villages, setting up of fishing harbour facilities at major and minor ports etc. The central assistance of Rs. 12610.8 Lakh has been extended to various state/UTs under these schemes during the last 3 years.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, based on a model marine Fishing Regulations Bill circulated by the Government of India all the coastal States, except Gujarat have enacted Marine Fishing Regulation Acts earmarking operational areas for different types of fishing vessles. The details are annexed as Statement.

Statement

Details of areas marked along the coastline debarring mechanized fishing

Sl. No.	State/Act	Area exclusively for traditional craft*	Areas for mechanised vessel
1	2	3	4
1.	Maharashtra MFRS 1981	5-10 fathom depth (9-18m depth)	—
2.	Goa MFRA 1980	5 Kms.	Beyond 5 Kms.

1	2	3	4
3.	Karnataka MFRA 1986	6 Kms.	Beyond 6 Kms.
4.	Kerala MFRA 1980	10 Kms.	beyond 10 Kms.
5.	Tamil Nadu MFRA 1983	3 nautical miles (5.4 Kms.)	Beyond 3 nautical miles
6.	Andhra Pradesh MFRA 1993	8 Kms.	beyond 8 Kms.
7.	Orissa MFRA 1982	5 Kms.	i) upto 15m OAL beyond 5 kms ii) above 15m OAL beyond 10 kms.
8.	West Bengal	i) Upto 8 kms. for mechanised vessels upto 9m OAL. ii) Upto 20 kms. but not below 8 kms. for vessels above 9 m OAL.	i) Upto 15m OAL upto 50 kms. but not below 20 Kms. ii) Above 15m OAL beyond 50 kms.

*Traditional craft can fish anywhere in the sea. The reservation mentioned implies only that other category of vessels may not fish in the area reserved for traditional craft.

WTO Agreement on Agriculture

3145. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'India seeks WTO rethink on agriculture', appearing in the Statesman dated the 25th October, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government have been actively considering to negotiate the WTO Agreement on Agriculture;

(c) if so, whether Government have been facing several problems in implementation of the Agreement; and